

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3027

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a program to provide college coaches to low- and middle-income high-achieving high school students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2008

Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a program to provide college coaches to low- and middle-income high-achieving high school students.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coaching Our Adoles-

5 cents for College Heights Act” or the “COACH Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to recruit and train recent

8 graduates of 4-year institutions of higher education, and

1 place the graduates in high schools, to increase the num-
 2 ber of low- and middle-income high-achieving high school
 3 students who are entering and succeeding at a college that
 4 is appropriate for their level of academic achievement,
 5 by—

6 (1) building a strong college-going culture for
 7 all students in those high schools; and

8 (2) working with cohorts of low- and middle-in-
 9 come high-achieving high school students to—

10 (A) provide guidance to ensure the stu-
 11 dents enroll and succeed in courses for college-
 12 bound students; and

13 (B) provide intensive support during the
 14 college search and application processes.

15 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM.**

16 The National and Community Service Act of 1990
 17 is amended by inserting after section 198D (42 U.S.C.
 18 12653d) the following:

19 **“SEC. 198E. COACH PILOT PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘gradua-
 22 tion rate’ means the percentage described in section
 23 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary
 24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 25 6311(b)(2)(C)(ii)).

1 “(2) HIGH-ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOL STU-
 2 DENT.—The term ‘high-achieving high school stu-
 3 dent’ means a high school student who scores in the
 4 top 50 percent of students on a student academic
 5 assessment described in section 1111(b)(3) of the
 6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
 7 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)).

8 “(3) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term ‘high school’
 9 means a secondary school in which the—

10 “(A) entering grade of the school is not
 11 lower than grade 9; and

12 “(B) highest grade of the school is—

13 “(i) grade 12; or

14 “(ii) in the case of a secondary school
 15 approved by a State to issue a regular di-
 16 ploma concurrently with a postsecondary
 17 degree or with not more than 2 years
 18 worth of postsecondary academic credit,
 19 grade 13.

20 “(4) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ‘low-
 21 income student’ has the meaning given the term in
 22 section 1821 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6561).

24 “(5) MIDDLE-INCOME STUDENT.—The term
 25 ‘middle-income student’ means a student from a

1 family with a household income that is not more
 2 than 100 percent of the State median family income
 3 by family size, as measured by the Bureau of the
 4 Census.

5 “(b) COACH PILOT PROGRAM.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
 7 award a contract to a nonprofit organization to plan
 8 and implement a 7-year pilot program. During the
 9 first year of the program, the nonprofit organization
 10 shall plan for the successful implementation of the
 11 program. In implementing the program, the organi-
 12 zation shall recruit recent graduates of 4-year insti-
 13 tutions of higher education, who commit to serving
 14 for 2 terms of service described in section 139(b)(1),
 15 as coaches to high-achieving high school students
 16 who are low-income students or middle-income stu-
 17 dents.

18 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF NONPROFIT ORGA-
 19 NIZATIONS.—The nonprofit organization shall—

20 “(A) recruit and select a total of 100
 21 coaches described in paragraph (1) through a
 22 highly selective national process;

23 “(B) provide preservice training to the
 24 coaches through a rigorous summer training
 25 session;

1 “(C) place the coaches in high schools—

2 “(i) that have large numbers of stu-
3 dents described in paragraph (1);

4 “(ii) where students described in
5 paragraph (1) have, historically, attended
6 college at low rates; and

7 “(iii) that, collectively, are within not
8 more than 5 school districts;

9 “(D) provide ongoing support and profes-
10 sional development for the coaches; and

11 “(E) provide the coaches with the benefits
12 described in section 140.

13 “(3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Corpora-
14 tion may not award a contract to an organization
15 under paragraph (1) unless that organization agrees
16 that, with respect of the costs to be incurred by the
17 organization in carrying out the program for which
18 the contract was awarded, the organization will
19 make available (directly or through donations from
20 public or private entities) non-Federal contributions
21 in an amount equal to not less than \$3 for every \$1
22 of Federal funds provided under the contract.

23 “(4) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES.—Each
24 coach placed in a high school under this section
25 shall—

1 “(A) work with all personnel and staff at
2 the school to build a strong college-going cul-
3 ture within the school for all students in the
4 school;

5 “(B) work with a cohort of not less than
6 25 and not more than 50 students described in
7 paragraph (1), beginning in their freshman year
8 of high school, to—

9 “(i) provide guidance to ensure the
10 students enroll and succeed in courses for
11 college-bound students;

12 “(ii) assist the students and their par-
13 ents in understanding the college applica-
14 tion and admissions processes;

15 “(iii) provide access to information
16 about, and assist the students and their
17 parents in understanding, the college fi-
18 nancial aid process, including assistance in
19 completing the Free Application for Fed-
20 eral Student Aid and applying for scholar-
21 ships for which the students are eligible;

22 “(iv) aid, and monitor the efforts of,
23 each such student in selecting, enrolling in,
24 and persisting in the institutions of higher
25 education that best meet the student’s edu-

1 cational and social needs and support the
 2 student’s intellectual and social develop-
 3 ment;

4 “(v) assist, and monitor the efforts of,
 5 the students in completing multiple college
 6 applications;

7 “(vi) connect the students with appro-
 8 priate summer academic enrichment pro-
 9 grams, including tutoring and test prepa-
 10 ration programs and other academic oppor-
 11 tunities, to develop academic skills appro-
 12 priate for college-bound students and en-
 13 rich the academic experiences of the stu-
 14 dents in the cohort; and

15 “(vii) connect the students with sum-
 16 mer internships and community service op-
 17 portunities; and

18 “(C)(i) monitor the academic performance
 19 and social adjustment of the students in the co-
 20 hort once the students enter their freshman
 21 year at an institution of higher education; and

22 “(ii) ensure those students are connected
 23 to needed support services at the institution of
 24 higher education.

25 “(5) EVALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall award a contract to an independent agency with expertise in evaluating trends in student achievement to study the effects of the program carried out under this section on the achievement of participating students, and students in high schools participating in the program.

“(B) MEASUREMENT.—The evaluation described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall compare—

“(I) participating high-achieving high school students who are low-income students or middle-income students, to similar high school students not participating in the program; and

“(II) all students in high schools participating in the program, to all students in similar high schools not participating in the program; and

“(ii) shall include measurements of—

“(I) academic achievement on the student academic assessments described in section 1111(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3));

1 “(II) high school graduation
2 rates;

3 “(III) student attendance rates;

4 “(IV) rates of students taking
5 Scholastic Aptitude Tests or ACT
6 tests;

7 “(V) rates of students completing
8 honors, Advanced Placement, or
9 International Baccalaureate courses,
10 if available;

11 “(VI) student rates of enroll-
12 ment, persistence, and attainment in
13 institutions of higher education; and

14 “(VII) success with respect to
15 any other academic factor the Cor-
16 poration determines is necessary.

17 “(6) BUILDING ON THE COACH PILOT PRO-
18 GRAM.—If the evaluation under paragraph (5) dem-
19 onstrates that the program carried out under this
20 section was effective in improving student achieve-
21 ment, as measured by the indicators described in
22 paragraph (5)(B)(ii), the Corporation, in collabora-
23 tion with the agency described in paragraph (5)(A),
24 shall develop a plan to include in the program as

1 many students described in paragraph (1) as pos-
 2 sible.”.

3 **SEC. 4. EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL SERVICE POSITION ELIGIBLE FOR NA-
 5 TIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—Section 123 of
 6 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
 7 U.S.C. 12573) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
 9 graph (8); and

10 (2) by inserting before paragraph (8) the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 “(7) A position involving service as a coach
 13 under section 198E.”.

14 (b) RESERVATION OF APPROVED POSITIONS.—Sec-
 15 tion 129 of the National and Community Service Act of
 16 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) by striking “The Corporation” and in-
 19 serting the following:

20 “(1) VISTA VOLUNTEERS AND CIVILIAN COM-
 21 MUNITY CORPS PARTICIPANTS.—The Corporation”;
 22 and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(2) COACHES.—The Corporation shall ensure
 25 that each individual selected by a nonprofit organi-

1 zation during a fiscal year as a coach under section
 2 198E shall receive the national service educational
 3 award described in subtitle D if the individual satis-
 4 fies the eligibility requirements for the award. Funds
 5 for approved national service positions required by
 6 this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be deducted
 7 from the funds appropriated under section
 8 501(a)(2)(B)(ii).”; and

9 (2) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) by inserting before “The Corporation”
 11 the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—”; and

13 (B) by striking the second sentence and in-
 14 serting the following:

15 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Corporation is au-
 16 thorized to make necessary and reasonable adjust-
 17 ments to the program rules—

18 “(A) relating to coaches described in sub-
 19 section (b)(2), if appropriations under section
 20 501(a)(2)(B)(ii) are insufficient to provide the
 21 maximum allowable national service educational
 22 awards under subtitle D for all those coaches
 23 who are eligible for such an award; and

24 “(B) relating to participants (other than
 25 such coaches), if appropriations under section

1 501(a)(2)(A) are insufficient to provide the
 2 maximum allowable national service educational
 3 awards under subtitle D for all those partici-
 4 pants who are eligible for such an award.”.

5 (c) TERM OF SERVICE.—Section 139(b) of the Na-
 6 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 7 12593(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) MULTIPLE TERMS OF SERVICE.—An indi-
 9 vidual who serves as a coach under section 198E for
 10 a period including 2 terms of service described in
 11 paragraph (1), and satisfies the eligibility require-
 12 ments described in paragraph (1) for each term,
 13 shall—

14 “(A) for purposes of this subsection, be
 15 considered to have served for 2 terms of 1 year;
 16 and

17 “(B) receive a national service educational
 18 award under section 147(a) for each of the 2
 19 terms of service.”.

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 Section 501(a)(2) of the National and Community
 22 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(2)) is amend-
 23 ed—

1 (1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by inserting
 2 “(other than assistance described in subparagraph
 3 (B)(i))” after “H of title I”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(other
 5 than awards described in subparagraph (B)(ii))”
 6 after “subtitle D of title I”;

7 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
 8 paragraph (C); and

9 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 “(B) COACH PILOT PROGRAM.—

12 “(i) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—There
 13 are authorized to be appropriated to pro-
 14 vide financial assistance under section
 15 198E, such sums as may be necessary for
 16 each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

17 “(ii) NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS
 18 FOR COACHES.—There are authorized to
 19 be appropriated to provide national service
 20 educational awards under subtitle D of
 21 title I for coaches under section 198E,
 22 such sums as may be necessary for each of
 23 fiscal years 2009 through 2014.”.

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